



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd September 2023

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Mass Times

Monday-Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,
10.15am, & 4pm

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am

Mass for the Sick

3.00pm

SUNDAY

9.00am, 11.15am

& 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY & FRIDAY

10.45am-12 Noon

3.00pm-4.00pm

SATURDAY

10.45am-12noon

2.30pm-4pm



St. Augustine's Church Child Safeguarding Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan O.S.A.

Fr. John Lyng O.S.A.

Ms Geraldine van Dam

Mr. Robert Ryan

Ms Charlotte Gleeson

Mr. John Doyle



Cross-Carrying

Ways of the cross differ. The Guinness Book of Records says that for cross-carrying Arthur Blessitt is top man. Carrying a 12 foot cross with a little wheel on the end, as if standing in for Joseph of Arimathea, Arthur started out on Christmas Day 1969 on the world's longest walk. Over 43,340 miles in '324 countries, islands-groups & territories, on all seven continents including Antarctica were walked in the next 54 years. His original cross was adapted to meet airline demands and it travelled 20,000 miles by boat—Arthur can't walk on water. Other than that he walked around the world.

- He carried his cross through 52 countries at war.
- Was arrested or jailed 24 times, mostly in the USA. (N.B. *Not for crimes*, Arthur tells us)
- The cross was refused overnight stay at more than half the churches he tried but never refused at a bar or nightclub.
- The warmest welcome was in Papua New Guinea, coldest in New York and the angriest in Amsterdam.
- The cross was stolen on Christmas Day in Assisi and was lost for a month by Alitalia.
- Someone broke the cross in Nigeria, attacked it with a pistol in Orlando and threatened to burn it in Birdseye, Indiana.
- Arthur says, *I love God and people, I try to keep it simple and Jesus did it, I give Him the glory.*

In recent decades he has travelled constantly with his wife Denise, married in 1990. (There was a lot of walking potential in Denise at the time as she was 30 years the younger). But Arthur carries the Cross all the way. He does it *to lead people to salvation*. The dawn of 2023, almost 55 years on, saw Mr Blessitt still walking. A real feat, heroic in its own way.

Denise and I carried the cross in the ancient city of Babylon in Iraq. The soldiers were wonderful to us and even opened up the original old walkway which had been used by Kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar and was then excavated. We carried the cross inside the restored ruins and there's a photo of the chamber where the handwriting appeared on the wall to King Belshazzar, Daniel 5:1-30. And finally we carried the cross to Ur of the Chaldeans in southern Iraq, where Abraham was from.

Most people carry their crosses without public notice and many without private complaint. That's where the real work, moved by need and by love, is done. The love of the Crucified, not the crucifying itself, is Paul's boast. Reflecting that love, strongly or weakly, is what promises an inscription in the book of life - even if there's small hope of mention in the Guinness Book of records. As for Arthur, Blessitt not Guinness, his name may even turn up in both books.

J.L.

Thought for the Day

Jesus had the gift of saying things directly and plainly, with a power to penetrate all our defences and lead us to a new awareness. Today's message puts before us the paradox of the Gospel: we gain life by letting go of it. If I put my happiness, my being loved, at the centre of my life, then I will surely fail, even though to be loved and to be happy are really important. If on the other hand I put the happiness of others first and love them unconditionally, then I too will know unselfish love and deep happiness. This is the very insight and wisdom that Jesus puts before us as the key not just to love but to life and within that, the key to authentic discipleship precisely as a way of life.

Prayer: Teach us, Lord, that nothing is more life-giving than to love and be loved in return.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

This year's theme is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" taking inspiration from the Prophet Amos who declares: "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). And so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

Source: Excerpt taken from www.catholicbishop.ie/Laudato-si/season-of-creation-2023



LECTIO DIVINA

Reading the Scripture
Reflecting on the Meaning
Responding through Prayer
Resting in God
Responding in Action

Lectio Meditatio Oratio Contemplatio Operatio

"The New Springtime Community is happy to announce

that it will be hosting a weekly online *Lectio Divina* for 2023-2024 starting on

Monday Sept 4th at 7.30 – 8.45 pm,
conducted by Fr. Pat Collins, CM

It will focus on the gospel reading for the following Sunday.

Each session will include

An opening prayer

Reading of the text

Prayerful reflection on the gospel

Sharing of insights

Scholarly commentary on the reading

**There will be NO CHARGE for this weekly
*Lectio Divina***

**You will need to register. Details on the
notice board at the back of the church**

'Finding God in a Leaf'

with Brian Grogan SJ

*Weekly reflective hour on Zoom, 12th, 19th and
26th September, 7:30pm to 8:45pm. Cost: €15*

"All reality is interconnected
within itself and with its maker,
so God is hidden in everything."

Register your place at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AutumnProgramme>

Season of Creation, 1st Sept-4th Oct 2023)

